



BULLETIN BOARD

Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada

Volume 38, Issue 3

May/June 2024



ABOVE: Anthony Craig works the Nelson yard on Scott Calvert's CPR Boundary Subdivision in an operating session last January. This layout will be one of the ones available to be viewed during the upcoming 2024 PNR Convention. Have you registered yet?

Photo by Scott Calvert

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor's Desk.....2
Superintendent's Message.....2
Adding Value to Your Membership.....3
Vancouver Train Expo Update.....5

2024 PNR Regional Convention.....5, 6
7th Division Time Table.....8
Notices and Contacts.....9

From the Editor's Desk

My apologies for the lateness of this edition. I have been working on the program booklet for the upcoming PNR 2024 Convention and I'm afraid that took rather more time than I had thought. You will also notice that this is a rather slim edition. I don't apologize for that; if I had the content I would print it. This issue a promised article failed to appear, and I didn't have the time to write something myself to replace it.

As I write this, the PNR Convention is getting very close and is looking in great shape. If you live in the lower mainland, or have accommodations there you can use, and can possibly spare the time you should by all means participate. Check out the promotional articles included here. It will be a great meet and will be well worth your time and money to attend.

If you know of any events not listed in the Time Table, even small local meets run by your club, or if you are thinking about maybe providing your fellow 7th Division members with an article on something important to you, or if you just have some photos or some news or information that should be in the next edition, please send me an email at bbeditor@7divpnr.ca.

Enjoy the issue!



Superintendent's Message

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

To all our new members: Welcome.

To all our members: Thank you for your support and your time. This is your organization, and we need you.

IT'S CONVENTION TIME!

The Surrey Excursion – PNR Convention 2024

RMMBC for 2024 will be the “Surrey Excursion,” the PNR 2024 Annual Convention and an NMRA member-only event. Start a project so it can be displayed at the PNR Convention in May 2024. For those involved in the Achievement Program, there will be AP Judging at the convention.

We can use your help. If you want to assist, please contact Lori Sebelley, PNR2024Chair@outlook.com.

Do not forget this is YOUR event. We need your help to make it happen.

The Pacific Northwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association will hold its annual convention on May 22nd. Have you signed up? This is your chance to talk to the regional board and express your thoughts.

The 7th Division has put together the convention, and I think it will be a good one. There are three days of clinics, layout open houses, and several days of operations sessions, not to mention a prototype tour of the Vancouver G3 facility.

There will also be the banquet on Saturday night. Yes, I know it is pricey. Rest assured your board worked with the convention committee to keep the price as low as possible. While we wanted the price to be lower, there is no way for it to cost any less. The hotel sets the price, and we can only pass it along. The Division does not make anything on the banquet.

Remember, this is a members-only event, and you will need your NMRA membership number to register. If you are a new member and want to attend the convention but have not received your membership number yet, please contact the organizing committee chair, Lori Sebelley, at PNR2024Chair@outlook.com. Please include a copy of your sign-up receipt, and Lori will advise you on the steps to register.

I look forward to seeing all of you there.

The convention will be held in Surrey, BC, at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel. The organizing committee is made up of most of the RMMBC organizing committee, so the event will be as good as we have come to expect. The event will take place from May 22nd through the 26th, 2024.

RMMBC will be back in its original form in 2025.

7th Division Website

Work continues on the 7th Division website (slowly). If you have the desire to volunteer and have web design skills, we are looking for a web admin for the 7th Division.

The login process to the Members Only section has changed. You will now need your NMRA member number to login. Passwords could not be copied from the old access. To get your new password, click on the “Forgot Password” link, and a temporary password will be sent to the email address we have on file for you. If you do not receive a temporary password shortly after it has been requested, check your Junk Mail and Spam folders. If you still have no password, please get in touch with webmaster@7divpnr.ca.

Adding Value to Your Membership

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

Awards

Did you know that the 7th Division recognizes our members for their achievements?

If you know someone who should be recognized with one of the awards listed below, contact the award’s coordinator or the Superintendent of the 7th Division. Contact information can be found on the [About Us page of the 7th Division website](#).

The **Jack Work Memorial Trophy** is presented annually to the 7th Division member who best exhibits the qualities that Jack Work displayed: imagination, creativity, innovation, artistry, forward-thinking, quality workmanship and the sharing of the results of these qualities with the rest of the hobby.

The **Ross Heriot Memorial Golden Spike Award** is presented annually to an individual or a group of individuals in the 7th Division who have made a significant contribution to the division.

The **Railway Heritage Award** is presented, when appropriate, to a current member of the 7th Division who has contributed in a meaningful way to the preservation of railway history.

Check out the [Awards page of the 7th Division website](#) for more details and past recipients.

Modeller’s Help Desk

We are here to help. If you need a solution or an idea for your layout, ask the “Modeller’s Help Desk,” listed on the [About Us page of the 7th Division website](#) or the last page of this Bulletin Board.

Changing Your Email Address

We have created a simple way to change your email address. Email the [7th Division Membership Coordinator](#), with EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE as the subject line. Include your name, NMRA number, old email address, and new email address. We will update our records and pass the information to Regional and National.

Volunteering

We need volunteers and have openings for the following:

- Publicity Coordinator

Responsibilities: Coordinate with local events to have an NMRA presence, liaise with NMRA Regional and National for publications.

- Social Media Coordinator

Responsibilities: Work to establish a 7th Division Social Media presence.

- 7th Division Regional Education Team

Responsibilities: Work with the NMRA PNR Regional Education Team to establish a library of “How To” and research material for access by NMRA Members

- Web Administrator

Responsibilities: Maintain the 7th Division’s Website and post content as requested.

- Clinic Coordinator

Responsibilities: Work with the 7th Division’s Secretary to coordinate clinicians and resources for the 7th Division’s Winter, Summer, and Fall Clinics

Would you like to volunteer for one of these positions, or perhaps you have an idea for the Division? Reach out to your Sub-Division Coordinator. They are listed on the [7th Division website on the About Us page](#) or contact me at superintendent@7divpnr.ca.

New Members

The following new 7th Division members have joined us in the last six months. Please welcome them, and work to ensure they are included in our events.

• Junichi Frederick Mizuki	Vancouver	November 2023
• Donald Elter	Sechelt	January 2024
• Gus Blanchette	Mission	January 2024
• Dave Love	Kelowna	January 2024
• Aidan Botting	New Westminster	January 2024
• Chris Buffett	North Vancouver	February 2024
• Gayle Nice	Abbotsford	February 2024
• Timothy Snook	Abbotsford	February 2024
• Michael Scott	Sechelt	February 2024
• Carson Thompson	Gibsons	February 2024
• Chris Campbell	Coquitlam	March 2024
• Nolan Stewart	Shawnigan Lake	March 2024

If you’re coming to the convention, please check our website.

pnr2024.7divpnr.ca

The complete schedule is there, plus a list of Operations sites and Layout Open House hosts, with opening dates and times.

Vancouver Train Expo 2024 Update

by Tom Lundgren, Leader, Vancouver Train Expo

My update in the January/February edition of the Bulletin Board provided a summary of Vancouver Train Expo 2023. As you will recall, I reported that low attendance had impacted the financial outcome. It turns out the 2023 event lost \$1,412 *after* paying exhibitor travel expenses and honoraria. The British Columbia Society of Model Engineers graciously donated \$1,500 from the proceeds of the mini rail train rides to offset the loss. As a result we start 2024 with the same amount of working capital. This is, with the addition of pre-event booth and table rentals, sufficient to fund approximately 85 percent of the event's upfront costs.



Planning for Vancouver Train Expo 2024 at the PNE Forum, November 2nd and 3rd (load in on the 1st) has started. An initial canvas of suppliers suggests that we do not face significant price increases.

The next step is to canvas exhibitors and vendors. In my previous update I mentioned that the number of small exhibits had shrunk and the demand for booth space declined. We could have accommodated an additional good sized layout exhibit and had underutilized booth space. Hence, the response to this initial canvas of exhibitors and vendors will be a key determinant in the deciding the viability of this year's event.

The Organizing Committee remains intact, although the demands of everyday life are impacting the time some members have available to devote to the event. This lost capacity will need to be replaced somehow. In particular, back up volunteers are needed for each of committee positions and additional promotional capacity is required. If you are interested and have time to assist please contact me at: chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca.

The plan is to collect the information needed to make a decision on Vancouver Train Expo 2024 sometime in May. While this may seem early, the timing is driven by the need to secure the venue, which in turn triggers the payment of non-refundable deposits.

Thanks to you for supporting the hobby!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET YOU EXCITED?

by John Martin, PNR 2024 Convention Publicity

One of the most over-used words in advertising is “exciting”. We’ve all seen beautifully phrased announcements that say something like: “The government is excited to be introducing an exciting new tax increase that is guaranteed to get you excited”. You might also have heard a slightly off-colour joke that begins much the same way (ask me sometime).

With that in mind, we very warily raise our heads above our foxhole and say that we are, indeed, very excited about the 2024 PNR Convention.

You may or may not know that staging a convention is a risky proposition. During the depths of COVID-19, we had to begin booking a hotel to host the event. Commitments for floor space and a block of rooms were made, as well as arrangements for the traditional banquet. Poor attendance could result in a significant financial hit for the 7th Division and your committee has had a few anxious years, waiting to see if we could put together a sufficiently attractive event to bring in the desired audience numbers.

Over 50 clinics needed to be organized, operating sessions and layout open houses arranged, a display room prepared, exhibits solicited, a prototype tour booked, and on and on.



We are pleased to report that over 170 “full-fare” NMRA members have registered to attend, as well as 32 “non-rail” guests who participate in a program for those who have decided to accompany their significant other but have yet to fall in love with model trains. We even have four youth registrants – hopefully they are future 7th Division members.

You can see much more on our website at PNR2024.7divpnr.ca.

The site includes a full schedule of events, clinic titles and times, tour info, and even a list of your fellow 7th Division folks who did all the hard work putting the convention together. They deserve an enormous vote of thanks. (see [Convention Information – Contact Us](#)).

We hope you’ve decided to attend. Actually, there is still time to register – if you act soon.

For those who’ve already signed up, we know you’re going to enjoy yourselves.

In fact, we’re rather excited about it.

Our Candlelight Dinner

by Bill Van Horne



My dinner companion was lovely and the meal in front of us was delightful. She had the lemon & herb roasted free range chicken breast and I was enjoying the braised beef “caldareta”. We had both complimented our main entrees with roasted and steamed veggies and baby potatoes and everything tasted delicious. An assortment of gorgeous desserts awaited us, and in a few moments the always entertaining Paul Clegg would begin his talk – highlighting his 37 years with Canadian Pacific and his reflections and anecdotes from a time of massive three decades long restructuring.

When my companion whispered into my ear and suggested we skip dessert and slip away to our room for some alone time, I looked deeply into her beautifully hypnotic eyes and enthusiastically nodded “YES”.

And in that instant, it suddenly hit me like a runaway freight train. I realized beyond any doubt in my mind that this was all a dream.

I knew perfectly well that no model railroader worth his/her salt would ever pass up even a minute of the convention program for a personal dalliance. It was obvious this couldn’t be real. No – it’ll always be “convention first” for me and I stayed riveted in my seat where I belonged!

If you’d like to enjoy this same menu and atmosphere, there is still time to register for Surrey Excursion 2024. I guarantee it’ll be a lot of fun – and Paul Clegg’s after-dinner talk will be the icing on the cake.

So long for now – and please excuse me. I’ve been told that I very badly need to start working on building up brownie points around here. I wonder if just maybe I should have gone with her to our room instead.....???

SNEAK PREVIEW – Brand New Feature Film Documentary

by John Martin, PNR 2024 Convention Publicity

If you've decided to attend the 2024 PNR Convention, you can be one of the first to see "The Last Stop – Canada's Lost Locomotive", a brand-new major documentary feature film. (88 minutes)

This is a "Sneak Preview" and a rare opportunity to catch the picture before it gets wider distribution. As a bonus, staff will be available after the show for a Q & A session.

One showing only – 8 PM on Friday, May 24th, 2024

See the trailer at: <https://vimeo.com/499453389>.

In 1947, a dangerous shipping incident saw an entire train slip to the depths of Slocan Lake. Seventy-five years later, a diver and his team set out to locate and extract this historic steam locomotive, aided by one of the wreck's living survivors, a 99-year-old brakeman who was on the train that fateful day. Battling the elements in one of Canada's deepest lakes, with depths of up to 1000 ft, the gruelling expedition tested even the hardest members of the team. But as the search went on, they stumbled upon a more intimate discovery surrounding the townsfolk who call these remote mountains in British Columbia home.



Please share your latest projects or video with us on Facebook at:



Model Railway BC

7th Division Time Table

The following events are coming up and may be of interest to 7th Division members. Check out the identified website for more information.

May 22-26, 2024 – **Surrey Excursion, the PNR 2024 Regional Convention** – This year it is the 7th Division's turn to host the PNR regional convention, replacing this year's RMMBC with a bigger and more elaborate show. The event will be held at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey. See the articles on pages 5 and 6, and [the convention website](#) for more details. Don't miss out – it's not too late to register!

September 15, 2024 – **Victoria Model Railway Show** – Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave., Sidney (corner of Highway 17 and Beacon Ave.). Operating model railways and displays, commercial and individual sales. Free parking. More details next issue. (No website)

October 5-6, 2024 – **Lynden Model Train Show** – Northwest Washington Fairgrounds, Lynden, Washington, USA – A great local show just a ten minute drive south of the Aldergrove border crossing. See the website for more details: www.lyndentrainshow.com.

October 2024 – **Cloverdale Community Train Show** – Details TBD – stay tuned!

November 2-3, 2024 – The **Vancouver Train Expo (VTE)** is the province's leading train show aimed at the general public. For more information check out the VTE website www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca.

May 23-25, 2025 – **Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC) 2025** – RMMBC will be returning next year, with all the features you have come to know and love. Stay tuned for more details.

If you are organizing or helping with an event, even a local one, or even just know of an event that you think other 7th Division members would like to know about, send an email to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) describing it.



Notices and Contacts

The Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. Note that the views and opinions stated in the Bulletin Board do not necessarily reflect those of the NMRA or its regions or divisions. Bulletin Board contents are protected by copyright and may only be copied or republished with permission.

The Bulletin Board has five issues per year: January/February, March/April, May/June, September/October, and November/December. Each issue is published around the start of the issue period. Publication means the Bulletin Board is available for download from the 7th Division website. Members will be notified by email when the download is ready. In exceptional circumstances, such as Internet unavailability or medical conditions, the 7th Division may agree to distribute paper copies to affected members.

The PNR 7th Division maintains a list of members that includes postal and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. If you move or change your internet service provider or in any other way cause your contact details to change PLEASE contact the [Membership Coordinator](#) to provide the new information. If you fail to do this we will lose contact with you and you will miss out on 7th Division benefits. Note that the member list is held in strict privacy.

Your comments and opinions on this publication are always welcome. As well, contributions of letters, articles, event news, plans, photographs and art are strongly encouraged and welcomed. All should be sent to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#). A phone call or email to the editor beforehand is advised if you are thinking of submitting something large or complex. The deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publication but this is somewhat flexible according to circumstances.

ADVERTISING in the Bulletin Board is accepted at reasonable rates. Please contact the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) for more details.

The following is a shortened list of division volunteers. A complete list that includes additional appointed positions as well as all area representatives is available on the [7th Division website](#).

Superintendent	Victor Gilbert	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	superintendent@7divpnr.ca
Assistant Superintendent	Tim Horton	604-785-2860 (North Vancouver)	assistantsuperintendent@7divpnr.ca
Secretary	Randy Nussli	250-380-6814 (Victoria)	secretary@7divpnr.ca
Treasurer	Larry Sebelley	604-858-5717 (Chilliwack)	treasurer@7divpnr.ca
Director at Large	Ken Rutherford	250-724-4698 (Port Alberni)	directoratlarge@7divpnr.ca
Membership Coordinator	Doug Hicks	604-421-0809 (Burnaby)	membership@7divpnr.ca
Webmaster	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	webmaster@7divpnr.ca
Bulletin Board Editor	Rob England	250-629-2006 (Pender Island)	bbeditor@7divpnr.ca
Achievement Program Coordinator	Mike Chandler, MMR	604-526-5078 (New Westminster)	achievementprogram@7divpnr.ca
Modeller's Help Desk	Mike Barone	250-367-6134 (Fruitvale)	helpdesk@7divpnr.ca
Publicity Coordinator	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	publicity@7divpnr.ca